What is claimed is:

1. A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to an asset comprising:

a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data that is representative of at least operating characteristic of the asset;

an analysis controller located at a second location that is responsive to said acquired data from said local controller for generating an analysis of said acquired data; and

an electronic communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller.

2. The system defined in Claim 1 further including a data acquisition device for sensing said at least one operating characteristic of the asset and for generating said acquired data that is representative thereof.

3. The system defined in Claim 2 further including a transmitter for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device to said local controller.

4. The system defined in Claim 3 further including a receiver for receiving said acquired data transmitted from said transmitter and for transmitting said acquired data to said analysis controller.

5. The system defined in Claim 4 wherein said transmitter includes a wireless communications system for transmitting said acquired data from said data acquisition device through space to said receiver.

6. The system defined in Claim 1 wherein said electronic communications network is the internet.

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7.   The system defined in Claim 1 further including an administrative controller, and wherein said analysis controller transmits said analysis of said data to said administrative controller.

8.   The system defined in Claim 7 wherein said electronic communications network is connected between said analysis controller and said administrative controller.

9.   The system defined in Claim 7 wherein said electronic communications network is the internet.

10.   A method for gathering and analyzing data relating to an asset comprising the steps of:

(a)   acquiring data that is representative of at least one operational characteristic of the asset;

(b)   transmitting the acquired data through the internet to an analysis controller; and

(c)   generating an analysis of the transmitted data.

11.   The method defined in Claim 10 wherein said step (b) is performed by transmitting the acquired data from the asset through space to a receiver and from the receiver through the internet to the analysis controller.

12.   The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (b) is further performed by transmitting the acquired data from the receiver to a local controller and from the local controller through the internet to the analysis controller.

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13.   The method defined in Claim 10 wherein said step (c) is performed by comparing the transmitted data with data stored in a record for the asset for generating the analysis of the transmitted data.

14.   The method defined in Claim 10 including the further step (d) of transmitting the analysis of the transmitted data through the internet to an administrative controller.

15.   The method defined in Claim 10 including the further step (d) of posting the analysis of the transmitted data on a website maintained on the internet.

16.   A method for gathering and analyzing data relating to an asset comprising the steps of:

(a)   generating a maintenance invoice when service is performed on the asset, wherein the maintenance invoice includes an indication of the amount of usage of the asset;

(b)   transmitting the maintenance invoice to an administrative controller

(c)   comparing the indication of the amount of usage of the asset with a predetermined standard that is representative of a warranty period; and

(d)   generating a warranty report if the amount of usage is less than the predetermined standard.

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